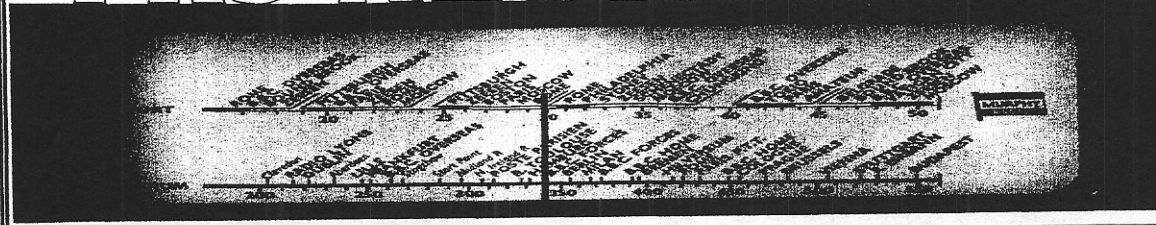


FRS NEWSLETTER



FRS Newsletter is
published by FRS-Holland
P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG
the Netherlands
freak55@ironet.nl
peter.verbruggen@tip.nl

FRS NEWSCORNER *** FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-HOLLAND ACTIVITIES

September 27th FRS-Holland took to the air between 08.00-11.00 UTC on 6242. A good signal was heard in large areas of Western Europe. The only disappointing thing was the poor reception in the UK which is a bit strange... Anyway, we received a nice amount of letters for that broadcast. Sunday October 18th would be the day FRS-H was

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS:

This is your FINAL Newsletter based on your current subscription which only covered the issues 118-120. Those who paid DM 2.50/£ 1.00 extra, will soon receive the FRS Info Booklet. In the past it often happened that people forget to renew. That means a lot of extra work for US. In order to avoid this annoying situation we KINDLY but URGENTLY ask you to renew NOW! It's simple. Just send DM 10.00/ £ 4.00 V f 10,- . DO IT NOW and you secure this Newsletter until the end of 1999 (issue 121-124).

going to celebrate its 18th birthday. Due to circumstances the main programming had to be postponed till the following Sunday. Two hours of FRS celebrations went out via the SVFRS outlet on 6280, 7590 and 11470 K-Hz (USB). In particular the 26 mb tx was doing very well in Western Europe. Our full 4 hours programming went out on the 25th between 09.00-13.00 UTC on 6240 K-Hz. Conditions that day were very good and apart from the first hour (fading) we had strong signals in several countries. The programme output consisted of music from the FRS era 1980-1998, blocks of programme extracts, information etc. Everything went ok until 12.50 UTC when technical problems forced us to close down. At that moment some 10 minutes were left. We received some 50 letters from a total of 9 countries including *Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany & France*. Most encouraging were the great number of positive comments about our programme output. That's what it is all about! Sunday Dec. 13th FRS-H tested a new tx on 6210. Tests started at 11.15 UTC following the close down of sister station EMR, putting out a regular 2 1/2 hour show that morning. As far as we can see, the signal-quality was satisfactory knowing it was only 50W we were putting out. Looking back at 1998 we may say it was quite an active year for FRS-Holland with a total of 7 regular third/fourth Sunday broadcasts.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON SW

The Dec. 13th test was in preparation for the X-Mas Party taking place next Sunday 09.00-13.30 UTC on a freq within the 48 mb. In that programme a 60 min. FRS Goes DX-Mas, great music (covering 4 decades) and many of the letters we received for our Oct. 25th broadcast. FRS will be heard mainly in German & English with Mark Jones, Peter Verbruggen and Joop ter Zee. A well-known former FRS presenter will return to the station around Easter 1999! Over the X-Mas period FRS-H will also take part in the Second Contest Europe "Memorial Michel Ravigneaux" (Dec. 18th- Jan. 6th). During this period FRS will be heard (among a great number of other stations) on one of these freqs: 3905, 7590, 11470 or 21450 K-Hz (all in USB). In the New Year the first FRS activities will be on January 24th (09.00-12.00 UTC) on a freq close to 6240 K-Hz.

NEW FRS-HOLLAND STATION LOGO

One of the highlights in October was the introduction of our brandnew station logo, if you visit our website you will find out how it looks like. QSLs and stickers have been printed in full colour and each of you who dropped us a line in October, will receive (has received) the new stuff.

NEW JINGLES

Right at this moment a set of brand new English & German jingles are being produced. Peter V. wrote a complete set of lyrics which will be recorded on MiniDisc/DAT in Austria and the USA. Joop ter Zee will be handling the mixing of the liners, FRS has a complete library of music beds and production elements to be used for any production work. In 1999 you will be able to hear the new FRS jingle set.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

CONDITIONS/GENERAL

In this final 1998 edition we cover the period mid September- mid December. In the past months conditions on 48 & 41 metres have gradually improved. In particular October saw a number of Sundays being ruled by (very) favourable propagation. As a result a high number of stations were active and mostly heard in good quality. One example is Sun October 25th when no less than 30 different stations were to be heard on 48 & 41 metres. Also Nov. 1st a high number of stations was monitored. Sun Nov. 15th several Dutch powerhouses overrun the SW 48 mb: Spaceman, TAR, Tonair, Torenvak, RECH & VOTN, the Farmers and Blue Star. Makes a total of at least 4 kW's!! The annual SRS SW Station Pop Poll resulted in Radio Cochiquaz on #1, Subteranean Sounds being 2nd, Radio Korak International 3rd, FRS-H fourth and Radio Pirana/ Radio Torenvak shared the 5th position. With the upcoming X-Mas Season SW Free Radio activity will be at its peak. We have tried to include as much info regarding upcoming times as possible. On some Sundays a free radio chatroom for AOL users will be open in the evening UTC. Further info from <shinoo@aol.com>.

▷ **RADIO AL INT.** is to be heard almost every Sun on 6270 K-Hz. Broadcasts start early and usually end well before 10.00 UTC. Since October RAI has a new transmitter with an output of no less than 550W. Future tests are planned on 6250, 6955, 11450 and also in the area of 15025 K-Hz. Address: see Radio Bandonica. New Email is: <alinter@rendo.denkooi.nl>. There's a website under construction: <www.rendo.denkooi.nl/~alinter>.

▷ Newcomer **RADIO BANDONICA** from the Eastern part of the Netherlands continues with regular early Sun morning broadcasts on 6275 K-Hz. Oct. 18th saw the station on this freq as early as 06.35 UTC. Power was approx. 45W, in the mean time a new 100W tx is in use. The first time with the new rig took place on Sunday Dec. 6th when a strong signal was radiated on 6275. Add is same as Radio AL Int, VOTN & RECH. P.O.Box 663, 7900 AR Hogeveen in the Netherlands.

▷ Sun Oct. 18th **RADIO BENELUX** (1) tested on 7480. Until a few years ago, 7480 was the station's fixed channel but BNL moved to 48 & 51 metres because of poor propagation on 41 metres. It looks like if the 41 mb is open for medium and long distances. Any keen SW OP will find enough suitable freqs for broadcast purposes within the 7300-7500 freq range. Since October BNL has frequently been noted on 7480 with mostly good results.

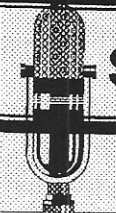
▷ The new address of **RADIO BERMUDADREECK** is P.O. Box 1136, D-06201 Merseburg, Germany. Email: <hlw10460@hlw-dresden.de>.

▷ **RADIO BLACKBEARD** (10) returned on SW Sun Nov. 22nd. The station was heard on 6267 with a 100W tx. Station OP Dave Norris made a phone-in receiving phone calls from Scotland and Germany. Signal-quality was good.

▷ Dutch powerhouse **RADIO BLUESTAR** now has its very own website: <http://listen.tobluestar>. New email: <bluestar@limit.nl>. Radio Blue Star is usually to be found on 48 and 76 metres with mostly strong signals. Sat. Oct. 17th a second test was carried out on 6185 following an earlier test on this freq Sept. 20th. During the latter occasion a new 150W rig was put into service. Oct. 17th Blue Star was also heard on 6293 and 6910. Eversince Blue Star has been heard frequently on 6910. Sun Oct. 18th Radio Blue Star tested on 6260 using only 50W of power. Conditions were good that day and a strong signal was provided. Sun Nov. 8th a 30W 6910 test was conducted. A week later a test on 7460 (fair signal) took place. On the 22nd of Nov. 6235 & 6240 K-Hz (test) were being used. Dec. 13th saw more Blue Star tests on 41 metres on 7480 and 7560 K-Hz. The latter freq gave a much better signal. Blue Star is aiming at a 24 hour broadcast with a 1.5 kW tx. Addr = Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle (also being used by Testzender, Joop Zender & Daytona).

▷ Sun October 4th Belgian **RADIO BRIGITTE** was heard on 6540 and 6571. So now and then Brigitte can be heard on 48 metres but quite often rather exotic out-of-band freqs outside the common 48 mb are being used. Sun Oct. 11th 6259 and 6264 were in use and Nov. 8th 6300 & 6258 (test). Address is P.O.Box 10, 7594 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands.

▷ Saturday September 26th **BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION** was heard on 5794 K-Hz till approx. 22.00 UTC. A German Service was aired and genuine German



schlagers were played! BBMS is making use of Ozone Radio's facilities. According to our latest info BBMS is on air Saturday nights on 5835 starting at 21.30 UTC. Most Sunday mornings 6198 is in use except the times Radio Pandora or European Music Radio are using 6200. Sign on is at 07.30 UTC. Sunday afternoons from 12.30 UTC onwards 7400 is in use, according to BBMS an ideal moment to use 41 metres as propagation is at its peak during the earlier part of the afternoon. Sat evening Oct. 17th BBMS was indeed to be heard on 5835 with a nice signal. Address is same as Ozone Radio.

▷ **RADIO CITY FM** (10) was heard with a lengthy broadcast (good signals!) on 6246 Sun Dec. 13th. The station is certainly an asset in the Free Radio world with a good programming consisting of music and information. Address is City FM's website: < <http://www.cityfm.de> >. Email < cityfm@aol.com >. November 30th at 11.45 UTC City FM was raided by German authorities. A small 4W FM tx used for relay purposes was confiscated plus all audio equipment. The confiscated tx was relaying the City FM programming 24 hours a day on the new Frequency 87.8 FM.

▷ Sat evening Dec. 5th **RADIO CLOG** returned on SW 3910 following a long absence. The station was also heard on 6235 Sun December 13th. Pxs contained a review of Free Radio in 1998. Correct reports must cover a 15 minute period along with sufficient return postage (1 RC/ one US dollar or 2x1,10 DM stamps). Address is Box 540101 in D-47151 Duisburg in Germany.

▷ South American **RADIO COCHIGUAZ** was the winner of the SRS Station Pop Poll 1998. Congratulations! Oct. 25th saw the station with excellent signals on 6290 via Torenvalk & Nov. 8th on 6235 via Irish JRR.

▷ **RADIO DAYTONA** was a rare catch on Sun Sept. 27th. The station was heard on 6280 and later on 6273 kHz. In the early 80s there was a Dutch SW station calling itself Daytona but we are not sure whether there is any connection between this one and the 80s version. In the mean time the station is being heard quite regularly on 48 metres, for instance Sun Nov. 8th Daytona was on 6265 and on the 22nd on 6260. Add see Radio Blue Star.

▷ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** and **VOICE of THE NETHERLANDS** carried out a mutual high power test (800W) on 7490 kHz on Sun Nov. 15th. At around 10.30 UTC the tx went silent because the antenna was damaged. The funny thing is the OPs themselves were not aware of the tx being off the air! A listener's telephone call from Bjoern (Dortmund) informed them that they were off the air. After checking the equipment it was discovered that the balun (centre part of the aerial) was burning. Nov. 29th saw a very brief but more successful test in the afternoon. Signal quality was excellent. Nov. 1st RECH was heard on 6255 with a good signal. Sun Nov. 22 RECH tested a new 100W tx on 6270 and results were satisfactory. They also have new Email addresses: < vohn@freemail.nl > and < eastcoastholland@freemail.nl >. Since a few weeks they have now also a homepage featuring its mighty tx capable of putting out 1.5 kW (!). < www.rendokool.nl/~maget/ >.

▷ **RADIO EUROMAST** is a new Dutch station being first heard on 6243 & 6260 Sun Nov. 15th. Also at later dates the station was logged on a number of 48 mb freqs. No address known.

▷ **EUROPAN MUSIC RADIO** was heard on 6200 kHz on Sun Oct. 4th. It seems the station is not very lucky with its recent broadcasts. The 6200 signal suffered from a high noise level, the mod didn't seem loud enough to overcome this problem. For the first time since more than 15 years a Swedish Service was part of the programme output along with shows English, German and French. Looking at the stations professional programming, the station deserves far more than the current poor support from the European SW Free Radio audience. Stations like EMR must be cherished as only few stations are able to provide the listeners with such wide variety of Int. programming. Sun October 18th saw a brief EMR test consisting of Int. station IDs on 6290 with on the continent an excellent signal. Also in Scandinavia the signal was heard in good quality. Further tests with the station's 120W (unmodulated carrier power) were noted Sun November 29th (6295) & December 6th (6290). Also these tests were successful with fine signals in both UK and continent. Sun Nov. 1st EMR was on 6300 (relay) but heavy interference came from Blue Star on 6295. Sunday December 13th European Music Radio put out a full programming on 6210. Pxs commenced at 08.30 UTC and lasted till 11.15 UTC. Signal strength and modulation were very good making up a bit for the unsuccessful trials earlier this year. It is to be hoped that this broadcast which was heard loud and clear all over Western Europe will produce the amount of letters the station certainly deserves. Just for your information: EMR has a very good-looking colourful QSL and an informative info-sheet giving you all info regarding the technical and programming side of the operation. Address is P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. Chris Watson of Radio Geronimo Radio 48 will be irregularly testing with EMR programs on 31 mb in the 9350-9400 kHz region. Mainly on 9390 kHz. The tests start around 16.00 UTC.

▷ The **FANTASY RADIO NETWORK** tested on 6245 (and later on 6250) with a nice signal on Sun Dec. 6th. The Nabo Transceiver GRC 9 is having output of only 10W. A week later a second test took to the air on 6235 and 6263. Pxs were in German & English. It is planned to start official programming during the X-Mas days. Reports can be sent to SRS-Germany in Merseburg.

▷ The **FARMERS FROM HOLLAND** are to be heard on 6284 since September. Why this move from 6300 to 6284? We contacted one of the people behind the Farmers who kindly explained to us that the Farmers were aware of causing interference to "Reflections Europe" on 6295 in the late Sun afternoon and evening. A second reason for shifting

frequency is that 6284 is clearer in the eyes of the Farmers. Address is Box 108 in 7200 AC Dalisen. Website: < <http://lyto/farmers> >.

▷ The current schedule of **RADIO 510** reads as follows: on Fridays 20.00-21.00 on 3960U, on Saturdays 07.30-09.30 on 7120U, 18.00-20.00 on 3985U and 20.00-21.00 on 3960U. Address is P.O.Box 510, CH-4010 Basel in Switzerland. Email: < stevie@radio510.org >.

▷ **RADIO FLUX**, a relatively new Dutch station, was heard during numerous occasions, for example Wednesday September 23rd on 3925 and Sun Oct. 11th on 6255. Flux used to be an FM pirate but was forced to cease activities by the end of 1997. The OP moved to a new house and problems arose when he submitted an application for an antenna in his back garden. As a result the OP switched to SW after he read an article about pirates in the 76 mb. Until that moment he didn't know about SW Free Radio stations broadcasting on 48 and 76 metres. And so it all started... He listened and started experiments after building his own 100W rig. This tx is capable of broadcasting on both 76 and 48 metres. Soon a selfconstructed 300W PLL-controlled tx will become operational. According to the station OP there's not enough space to erect a proper aerial. But with some creativeness this problem seems to be solved. Sat Oct. 3rd at 18.30 UTC an antenna test was carried out on 3931 kHz. Sat Oct. 17th Flux was testing on 6280 announcing a phone-number. The following day 6265 was in use. During several other occasions the station was heard on 76 & 48 metres. Address is P.O.Box 204, 4190 CE Geldermalsen.

▷ **RADIO FREE LONDON**, the station celebrating its 30th birthday mid August, was heard during several weekends on 5805. November 1st RFL was broadcasting on 6305 kHz. That day a Halloween special was put out on 3 freqs including the aforementioned 6305, 5805 & 3945. Dec. 6th RFL was again noted on 6305 but this time not on 5805! Most likely the station will be very active over the X-Mas period, remember last year when the station was putting out 24 hour a day/9 days in a row trms between the 20th and 28th December. Address is 101B Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9LP, England. Email: < rflsw@usa.net >. Website: < <http://193.63.162.100/gherefl.htm> >. In the mean time RFL has been heard a number of times on 6305 kHz.

▷ **RADIO FUSION INTERNATIONAL** from Sweden will hit the airwaves on Christmas Day and possibly also Boxing Day at 07.00 or 08.00 UTC. Frequency hasn't been decided yet but will be within 48 metres. 6240 kHz is a possibility. Power will be approx 180W. In the past RFI suffered from mod problems but this seems to be sorted out now. Add is POBox 4580, 203 20 Malmö, Sweden.

▷ **RADIO GUNSMOKE** (5) from the Netherlands was noted on 3910 Sat October 3rd. No less than 300W were in use resulting in a more than excellent signal. As a result of the increasing number of "bad quality" (or even fake!) reports Gunsmoke has started mentioning a special code within its shows. This code must be included in the reports. Sun Nov. 29th Gunsmoke Rtested on 6285, mod quality left much to be desired. In 1999 the station will return under its old name Radio Borderhunter.

▷ **RADIO INTERCITY** uses a new address: do FRI, P.O. Box 520112, D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

▷ **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO** is from now on concentrating on 51 metres thus ceasing activities 76 metres. Maximum power of the current outfit is 200 Watts in SSB. The majority of IMR's future shows will be aired during evening/night on 5815 in USB. Pxs are not aired on any special day, just check 5815 around 19.00 UTC. At present time the station cannot be reached via Email, the alternative is sending reports by Fax 0049-7621-64259 or via telephone direct into the studio: 0049-171-755-27-15. Address is P.O.Box 1951, 79554 Weil am Rhein, Germany. Sat Oct. 31st IMR celebrated its 5th birthday with shows on 3900 and 7415 kHz. Congratulations!

▷ **RADIO IRIS INT.** from the Netherlands was heard on 6308 Sun Nov. 22nd and 29th. Iris used to be a famous Dutch pirate in the late 70s broadcasting on FM, MW & SW. We do not know whether this is the old Radio Iri from Amsterdam. Email add: < iris_radio@compuserve.com >.

▷ **IRISH INDEPENDENT RADIO** is a new name in SW Free Radio land. The station was relayed via JRR on 6234 Sun Oct. 18th. Surprisingly a Dutch address is in use: P.O.Box 15558, 1001 AB Amsterdam!

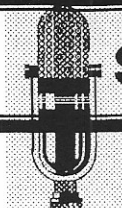
▷ **RADIO JOYSTICK** (1) has a new email addr which is: < cha_pi@hotmail.com >. Dec. 13th Joystick was heard on 6308, possibly via Radio Pandora.

▷ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was to be heard with a brandnew transmitter on Sat night October 10th. The usual 3920 kHz was in use and as always signal quality was excellent. What exactly the power is remains a secret, fact is it is very powerful! In October & November RKI was noted several times on Sat evenings. Dec. 5th saw the station for a while on 3975! Address is P.O.Box 134, 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

▷ **MAGIC SW** which was heard on 6261 Sun Dec. 13th is sharing the P.O.Box 1104, NL-8001 BC Zwolle from Blue Star.

▷ **MAGIC WAVE RADIO** (10) tested on 6245 Sun Oct. 25th. A fair signal was noted. MWR seems to be a Scandinavian project (?).

▷ German **RADIO MARABU** had a busy weekend Sat Nov. 14th when trms were observed on 6210, 6281 and 7120 (IFRS). A week later Marabu was again on 6210 kHz with nice signal strength. The station continues to provide a real musical alternative to the SW listener. Address is POBox 1166, D-49187 Beim. Email: < radiomarabu@t-online.de >. Website: < www.mediaDD/radiomarabu/ >.



▷ **RADIO MAXWELL** was heard in fine quality on 7446 Sun Oct. 25th. Only 25 watts were announced, for instance in Finland signal-strength was very good. Sun Nov. 8th saw Maxwell on 7413 kHz. Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA, UK.

▷ **MOZART RADIO** is a new station hoping to make its debut show Boxing Day Dec. 26th 1998. Operator Johnny Sepp will emphasize on playing music from composers from a country that Austria did occupy during its Emporors time: Bohemia and Moravia. If listeners do read in a positive way, they plan to have additional shows. Address is c/o FRI. Endorse 2 US dollars/ 2 IRCs/ 2x 1,10 DM stamps for QSL-card and information.

▷ **RADIO NEW WORLD**, the joint venture of Torenwalk and Tonair was heard on 6270 Sun Dec. 13th but due to technical problems the station was forced to leave the airwaves. Signal was very good. Addr is Box 47 in 7010 AA Gaanderen, the Neth.

▷ Sun October 11th **RADIO NORDSEE INT.** (10) from Germany returned on 48 metres following a few months absence. The station was unable to use 6210 but instead used 6270 because German colleague Radio Marabu was on 6210 all weekend. The professional Nordsee pws were live and listeners were offered the opportunity to call. Signal-strength was fine, so was the modulation. RNI has planned a number of marathon broadcasts over the X-Mas Holiday Season. X-Mas & Boxing Day Day will see the station on air from 10.00-18.00 hours on 6210 and in addition there will be a special New Year's Eve broadcast in the evening hours on 76 & 48 metres. RNI will also be heard on FM 88.9 (200 Watt) and 101.4 MHz (1 Watt) between X-Mas Eve and January 1st Dec. 6th saw "another" Nordsee on 6211 giving out the POBox 2209, 77612 Offenburg Germany address.

▷ **OZONE RADIO** seems to be Britain's most active station at present time. The station is active on 76, 51, 41 and 48 metres. It's a pity that the station not really uses fixed channels witness the great deal of freqs being used over the past few months. September 20th at just over 11.00 UTC the station was for a change observed on 7401. Broadcasts are being aired in cooperation with colleague station BBMS. Currently the following schedule (roughly) is valid: on Sun at 08.00 UTC on 6198, at 16.00 UTC on 5794. The station hopes to commence 41 mb trms at the moment the old tx is converted. Possible future freqs are 7310, 7395, 7400, 7420, 7460, 7550 or 7560 kHz. Ozone is looking for 60 mb Xmas as well, freqs wanted are 4910, 4930, 4935, 4940, 4890, 4880 & 4750. BBMS-Ozone hopes to open up this band in the near future. Latest news: Ozone Radio started tests on 7190 kHz (9-10 UTC) and 7170 kHz (10-11 UTC). Address is 55D Chester Rd, London N19 5DF in the UK. Email <bbms4ozone@compuserve.com>.

▷ **RADIO PANDORA** (10) was putting out pws on 6300 Sun Oct. 18th making use of the fact the Farmers have this QRG. Pandora's signal is usually fair on the continent. Mod could be a bit louder. Nov. 1st 29th Pandora was on resp. 6207 and 6302.

▷ In the FRS Newsletter #19 and in the Sept. 27th edition of FRS Goes DX, we mentioned the wrong address of German station **RADIO PERFEKT**. We'd like to apologize and here follows the one and only correct one: P.O.Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau. In addition (1) may also be used! Thanks to Werner Schauermann.

▷ **PROJECT ONE** (1) is a collaboration between Dutch and German SW operators. It all started in 1997 and activities are taking place every 3rd month. Over the final October weekend the station was active on several 76 & 48 mb freqs including 3930, 3934, 6210, 6245, 6250, 6260, 6270 & 6281. Stations such as Flux, Blue Star, Orchid, Cease, Star Club Radio, Freestyle, Free Willy, Dr. Tim, RTN, Driand and Perfekt are involved with Project One.

▷ **Q-103** was active on Saturday Oct. 17th. At 17.30 UTC a fair signal was noted on 6957 LSB. 10303.3 (USB) 3898 kHz (LSB) were also announced with nothing was audible on these freqs. The broadcast was announced for the 10th. Sun Dec. 13th saw Q-103 on 10304 kHz but much of the signal was spoilt by heavy QRMI. Add: (10). Email <q103@hotmail.com>.

▷ A real rare catch on Sun Sept. 27th was a station calling itself **SENDER DAVID**. As early as 05.40 UTC that Sun morning a male voice did a speech in German covering the German political scene regarding violation and brutalization in the society and industrial disease the country, rather a mouthful! The broadcast was noted on 6570 kHz. According to some sources it sounded like the ex-GDR underground stations of the 1950 to 1970s.

▷ **SWING WAVE RADIO** (1) is the latest new station to be heard via the weekend relay service of the IRRS in Italy. Saturday Oct. 3rd the station was heard on 3985 and 3960 kHz. And yes, this is yet another joint venture, this time Radio Wonderful and RMGP are involved. All the DJs of both stations were in the studio.

▷ **SHORT WAVE ROCK** popped up on SW being noted on 6252 Sun Nov. 15th. The following Email add was announced: <rockradio@iname.com>. Last known add is 9 Andrew Close Hainault, Ilford, Essex IG6 2UG in the UK.

▷ **THE SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE** tested on 21.450 kHz USB October 10th. Usual freqs are 11470U, 6280 & 7590. Main freq however is 11470. Since Sat Nov. 7th regular 76 mb trms have been started on 3905 kHz. Over the X-Mas Holiday Season the SVRS will relay several SW free radio station taking part in the Second Contest Europe/aire "Memorial Michel Ravigneaux" taking place between Dec. 18th and January 6th 1999. In this period listeners must catch as many free radio stations as possible. Nice prizes are to be won and the full details are available on the SVRS website. In addition you can order the complete info-sheets from FRS-H via the Herten maildrop. The SVRS announced a great week of continuous programs on 11470 kHz USB! Email <SVRS@usa.net>. Website: <http://listen.to/svrs>.

▷ **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** was noted on 6302 & 6308 Sun Nov. 15th. Signals on the continent were fair. The station features a lot of speech between the records. That makes the station quite different on SW. A phone-in show was aired on 6257 Nov. 29th. Add is 5 Dolphin Court, Poole BH13 6HB in the UK.

▷ **RADIO DR. TIM** was heard on 6297 and 6302 kHz Sun Oct. 11th. As this part of the dial is left by the Farmers, other stations are making full use of the opportunity of using freqs like 6295 or 6300 again Nov. 15th saw Dr. Tim on 6247 & 6290. Dr. Tim is also active on 76 metres during Sat nights. Address is (1).

▷ **RADIO TITANIC INT.** (1) was heard with a Halloween special Sun Nov. 1st on 7480 kHz. For an updated version of the station's rich history, take a look at <www.lss.se/~jef/titanic>. Email: <titanic@srs.pp.se>.

▷ **RADIO TONAIR** tested on 6280 on Sun Oct. 18th. Signal-strength was good but that was not the case with the mod quality sounding rather distorted. Oct. 25th Tonair was heard on 6281 and 7488. The latter is rather a strange freq knowing that Tonair is mostly active on 48 metres. Sun Nov. 29th saw Tonair on 6185. Add is P.O.Box 21 in 7010AA Gaanderen in the Netherlands.

▷ **RADIO TORENWALK** was heard on 6290 with very strong signals Oct. 25th & Nov. 15th. On the 15th the station was also briefly monitored on 6280 (!). Address is POBox 94 in 7038 ZH Zeddam.

▷ **TRANCE SW** is a new Dutch station that first tested in the weekend of Nov. 14th/15th. The 14th on 6244 and the following day on 6263. Regular weekly shows are planned Fridays. Broadcasts emanate from the Zwolle area and a Rohde & Schwarz 50W tx is being used. A test was heard on Sun Dec. 13th, signal on 6235 was nice. Website: <http://discoverthis.com/trance> and Email <trance@discoverthis.com>.

▷ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** has been noted various times on 76 & 48 metres. Sun Nov. 8th 5795 was used and on the 15th & 22nd 6298. On the 15th mod quality was poor but the following week it had dramatically improved. Transatlantic Radio is planning a New Year's Eve Party on 3894 and 5795 kHz commencing at 21.00 U

▷ Tuesday October 6th saw Dutch **UNION RADIO** testing on 3932 producing a strong signal. One day earlier at 20.00 UTC non-stop music was aired on 6240 kHz. Sun October 11th the station was for more than 4 hours on 6240 kHz providing a more than excellent signal in Central and Western Europe. In particular the modulation quality was very loud and clear, something which still is problem child for (too) many SW free radio stations. The station OP received many telephone calls during this live tm broadcast. During this broadcast a different type of aerial was tested. Sun Nov. 8th & 22nd saw lengthy 3+ hour phone-in shows on 6240 with excellent signals. Add is P.O.Box 669 in 7900AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

▷ **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** was noted on 7484 kHz/41 metres Sun Oct. 11th. The station is now also on the Internet. Email address is: <voth@freemail.com>. Address is P.O.Box 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen. Don't confuse it with P.O.Box 669, that's the one used by Union Radio!

▷ **RADIO WAVES INT.** was celebrating 15 years of SW broadcasts on Sun Nov. 15th 1998. Congratulations! Live pws went out on 11401 and 7484. In addition RMI was heard on 7590 via the IRRS tx in Italy. Sun Nov. 29th RMI produced a very good signal on 11401 and brandnew jingles were introduced produced by FRS Joop ter Zee. For details check their webpage: <www.imagineitfir-waves/index.htm>

▷ Scotland's premier SW Free Radio station **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** was heard during several occasions on 7446 kHz. It seems this is the station's new fixed frequency. In the past 4 weeks WMR didn't miss a Sunday on 7446 kHz. Signal-strength on the continent is mostly fair/good. Email <WMR@usa.net>.

▷ **WREKIN RADIO INT.** from the UK now has new Internet add: <winternational@europe1.freeseve.co.uk> and <www.europe1.freeseve.co.uk>. The station is regularly to be heard on 12265 kHz.

▷ Many SW DXers will remember the(n)famous **X-MAS RADIO** from the Netherlands. The last time X-Mas Radio was active must be several years ago. X-Mas is a station only broadcasting during the X-Mas period and in the past several famous Dutch jocks hosted guest shows on the station owned by Herbie the Fish. 1998 will see X-Mas returning to the SW bands. Pws are planned X-Mas Day and Boxing Day on 48 metres. Address could be POBox 343, 6900 AH Zevenaar in the Netherlands.

OFFSHORE RADIO NEWS

Annual Dutch Radio Day

This traditional and popular day will be taking place in Haarlem Sat March 20th. Freewave Media Magazine and Sighting Media Communicatie join forces and will organize this event which has gained quite some popularity among free radio enthusiasts. If you'd like to attend the meeting, you can contact FRS and we will give you the exact location which is only a 10 minute walk from Haarlem railtrain station. Also in 1999, well-known guests will be attending the meeting and many interesting video tapes will be played. Put it in your diary. Sat March 20th 1999.

Offshore CD-Rom now available

This Summer a CD-Rom entitled Offshore MultiMedia was published. This excellent CD-Rom contains no less than 225 websites, mostly complete, more than 2000 photos, 681 audiodips and 10 videos. A vital part is the Encyclopedia of Offshore Radio produced by Jim Parkes containing much more info, photos, audiodips and jingles. Unique is that each CD-Rom being ordered will contain the most updated info which is available. German offshore expert Martin van der Ven is taking care of frequently updating the info. We can



strongly recommend this CD-Rom. It costs DM 65 and for info contact Martin by Email <vanderVen@t-online.de>.

Laser 558

December will see Laser 558 back on the radio in the Dutch Rotterdam area on FM 106.5 MHz. It concerns original programme tapes recorded aboard the Communicator in the 1980s. These tapes were bought by a great laser fan. More info (History, audio extracts, photos, video etc.) on this website <http://listen.to/laser558>.

Israeli Broadcasting Authority to pay tribute to VOP

Monday October 12th the Israeli Broadcasting Authority put out a special programme commemorating it was 5 years ago the famous Voice of Peace closed down for good. The Voice of Peace was an offshore radio station founded by Abie Nathan, broadcasting for more than 20 years from "The Peace Ship" anchored in International waters off Tel Aviv. During its broadcasting life the station became a living legend employing many well-known UK presenters. Broadcasts that day on 88 MHz FM commenced at 07.00 and lasted till 01.00. Pys were aired in English and Hebrew presented by former VoP jocks, many coming from abroad specially for the event. Many of the programmes associated with the VOP were revived, including Dive Time, Twilight Time and The Classical Music programme among others. The broadcast started at 7am with three hours of the British DJ Tim Shepherd. It was a very emotional day for everyone involved and the listener response was huge. The telephone never stopped ringing. All had one thing in common - they all wanted MORE VOP days! Anyone interested in The Voice of Peace or other Israeli stations might like to look at Mike Brand's Israeli Offshore Stations website: <http://members.xoom.com/wireless/israel.htm>.

Special broadcasts to celebrate 40 years of offshore radio

Most likely many Offshore and Free Radio enthusiasts were scanning the LW, MW and SW dials last weekend vainly looking for a temporary weekend offshore station. What is the story about this project? FRS Goes DX reports.....

A group describing itself as 'an international group of friends of offshore radio' was planning a special broadcast, scheduled in the weekend of October 17th/18th. Although some sources were talking about firms legally authorised by a European country - probably on a special event basis - we now better. A few weeks before the planned time would commence, the group announced in a press release the reason for taking to the air. It was said that during the 1958 summer, the first commercial radio station on board a ship started broadcasting off the European coasts: Radio Mercur. This station reached ten thousands of listeners in Copenhagen and Malmö. By using the freedom of the international waters, the monopoly of the state operated broadcasters was shattered. Finally, Radio Mercur had to cease operations. The same happened with all the other watery wireless stations that followed the idea of operating from the high seas. In the years to come, there were different reasons for their failure. But in some countries offshore radio led to changes in media politics. Commercial radio was introduced on shore. But strange things happened as these new local and nationwide stations did not want to share their audience with the offshore based competitors. The international group of friends of offshore radio wanted to reminisce this important part of the European media history. Non-commercial broadcasts would be emanating from a ship in the North Sea. Name of the station: OFFSHORE 98. The news about this interesting initiative spread through radio circles like wildfire. Quite understandable knowing the press release was to be read on various popular radio-related websites, for example RadioVisie, the Offshore Pages from Martin van der Venne and UK-based Newside. Reliable sources however reported that the English and Dutch authorities were fully aware of the project and possible actions could not be ruled out. We have no clue as to which North Sea spot was chosen as an anchorage for the temporary broadcasting vessel. Also the people behind this project are shrouded in mist. Broadcasts would have been taken place on Long Wave 279, Medium Wave 1566 and Short Wave 6210 was mentioned but we believe it would be more likely a 41 mb frequency was going to be used. The reason for this had to be cancelled were the weather conditions last weekend. Force 6/7 winds blew over the North Sea and that's the main reason the ship didn't leave the harbour. At this moment we cannot reveal if and when a new attempt will be made. It's a fact this time of the year is not very favourable because of the infamous gale force winds.

RADIO CAROLINE

It looks like Radio Caroline has bounced back this year. After a decade in which its broadcasts were confined mainly to RSLs, the station can be heard on a regular basis via satellite, DAB & short wave. Since October, the station is on air with weekly shows every Sunday between 10.00-18.00 UTC. These times are taking place on the Astra 1C via the EKR transponder 35, 10.994 GHz-H, audio subcarriers 7.38 & 7.56 MHz and parallel in DAB, the new future standard equalling CD quality. For Peter Moore a dream has come true... Sunday Nov. 15th Radio Caroline took their regular Sunday satellite DAB broadcasts a step further later this month, with the first offshore based digital broadcasts. The Sunday output is normally coming from the EKR studios but that Sunday programmes came live from the MV Ross Revenge, anchored off the Isle of Sheppy. It would become the first international broadcasts from the radio ship this decade! The signal from Caroline was linked to EKR's studios at Maidstone, where it was transmitted onwards by satellite (with DAB and FM relays) as normal. DAB is only available in the London area at the moment. Radio Caroline's station manager Peter Moore said "We are delighted to be able to use new technology such as a DAB, which we hope will give us

more opportunities for regular broadcasting in the future. Our airtime deal with EKR, which gives us access to a large European audience as well as state-of-the-art studios in Maidstone is working extremely well. We have been inundated with calls and faxes following our first few broadcasts". Speaking about the day of ship-based broadcasting on the 15th Moore added "We want to let our regular listeners know that despite the satellites and digital relays, we haven't forgotten our roots". Caroline's broadcast line-up on Sundays includes Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Dave Foster and Nigel Harris, all of them worked for the station during its offshore days. Radio Caroline has been chosen by DAB radio manufacturer Grundig as the ideal broadcaster to attract early adopters of the technology. In a deal announced earlier this month, Grundig have sponsored Radio Caroline's broadcasts on DAB until the end of the year, and are also providing a top-of-the-range DABRDS digital car radio for a competition on the station. A spokesman for Grundig commented "We are delighted to be working with one of the best known radio stations in world, to promote digital radio. With the recent launch of DAB receivers by a number of manufacturers, and the beginning of the commercial licensing process, the time is right to start promoting the technology on-air. We are sure Caroline's unique audience profile will help us reach the people who are most likely to want to adopt the new and exciting DAB technology".

Peter Moore explains: "The image of the Ross Revenge (the Radio Caroline ship) as a museum piece, silent and staffed by a caretaker crew is no longer accurate. On Sunday for example, while one team were presenting the live programmes from the EKR studios at Maidstone, another was busy recording future Merin broadcasts in Studio 2 on board the ship, while studio 1 was in use making programmes for an Irish station who had rented our facilities. Meanwhile, a technical crew were on board rigging up an antenna for an RSL station which is renting the ship and studios later this year". Such is the demand for studio time on board Caroline, that the engineering team are considering rebuilding and returning to use Studio 3 (the old Overdrive/Viewpoint studio) which has not been in use since before the 1989 raid by the Dutch authorities. The live programming every Sunday is opened by Johnny Lewis who is nowadays on EKR and Radio Caroline. Johnny certainly adds something to the Caroline programming and it's good to have him back on a weekly basis. Every week there are guests from the past and that makes listening very entertaining. The nostalgia content is rather high. Besides, great classic rock is being played. All in all it's more than worth while listening to Caroline's Sunday satellite output. In the mean time Caroline is also to be heard on Merin Network One who started up a new full time 7 day a week 24 hour a day service Monday October 19th. Already two days later, Wednesday Oct. 21st Caroline was noted starting at 17.00 UTC on SW 6015 kHz. Surprisingly it was Peter Moore hosting the show obviously replacing Johnny Reece. With the new MNO Service, chances for Caroline are better than ever before to be heard on both satellite and SW. At present time Caroline can be heard on Wednesday evenings between 6 and 8pm. Mid November the FRS Newsletter received the following Caroline Newflash which we publish in full:

JOHNNIE WALKER'S TURNING POINT

Caroline's most famous and most loyal DJ Johnnie Walker was back on the Ross Revenge on Friday 5th of November with a BBC film crew recording footage for the series "Turning Points". Various celebrities have been asked to describe defining moments in their lives and for Walker this was August 14th 1967 when he was one of the few to stay with Radio Caroline at the moment when the station was exiled by government legislation. This decision made him unemployable in the UK for many years thereafter and at one stage even though he had been voted the most popular DJ in Britain by the general public he was reduced to driving a truck. Walker stood at the bows of the Ross Revenge, frozen to the spot for some 15 minutes, putting the onlooker in mind of Leonardo DiCaprio on the doomed Titanic as he was filmed from several angles. Now Walker has a regular weekday programme on UK's Radio 2 which has recently overtaken both Virgin Radio and Radio 1's audience figures.

LIVE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS

Ex Caroline staff Johnnie Lewis, Nigel Harris and Dave Foster assisted by Caroline Martin and Dave Asher who now produce Caroline programmes on the satellite channel also used by European Klassik Rock, were presenting the first international programmes on board Ross Revenge this decade! These live shows were aired Sunday November 15th. At the end of the day Steve Conway took over programming from the EKR studio (High quality tapes of this nostalgia moment can be obtained from FRS Sales productions).

NEW SHORTWAVE RELAY

At this time of writing this bulletin it has just been confirmed that a new Caroline service will commence tests on Sunday Nov 15th, relaying the ship's output on 6940 kHz SW. This is in the 43 Metre band. The test will run from 11 am to 2.00pm but if successful will then commence each Sunday for the full eight hours that Caroline is on the EKR satellite. Listeners in Europe are invited to tune to 6940 and to forward reception reports. These can be phoned to the EKR studios on 01622-684400. Outside of the UK 44-1622-684400. Alternatively Email to <info@radiocaroline.co.uk>. Remark from FRSNW: Caroline was noted on 6205 and 6210 on Sunday November 29th. However, we cannot confirm whether this was the 'real' Caroline and we do not know what location and power was used. Up till now we haven't heard any broadcasts on 6940 kHz.

THE HISTORY OF RADIO CAROLINE



The revised history missing for so long from your favourite radio site is now on line. Written by station manager Peter Moore it is the definitive story of Radio Caroline in all her different guises and is essential reading for all Caroline fans. Contact the station via Internet: <www.radiocaroline.co.uk> or post at 426 Archway Road, London N6 4JH England.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MERLIN NETWORK ONE

Plans to commence a full-time World Service have become reality. Test transmissions were carried out October 13th and 14th. The proposed start would be on Thursday October 15th but had to be cancelled because all the necessary paperwork wasn't completed in time. Contracts had to be arranged and signed resulting in a 4 day delay. The station will be broadcasting around the world on satellite and shortwave. Interesting to know is that Radio Caroline and The Rock Radio Network will be part of the MNO programme schedule. The full service of MNO offers a wide variety of programming and is to be heard on the Astra satellite. According to MNO's Eric Wisher "it is a combination of contributing stations and home grown programmes from Merlin Network One". He added that the MNO operation features state-of-the-art studios and outside broadcast facilities using the latest technology including computer technology. I know! I have often been quoted as hating computer. There will be two specific music studios and a sound area as well. All that will be connected to a brand new computer control system that will enable contributing stations from around the world to access the network at the right time. The station can be heard on Astra channel 58 which corresponds with 10.847 GHz/V using the 7.38 & 7.56 audio subcarriers. For full broadcasting details, see the MNO website <<http://www.mno.net>>. Merlin was formed on 27 March 1997 following the UK Government's decision to privatise the BBC's transmission network. Merlin was founded to carry out all technical engineering work connected with BBC activities. With over 65 years experience Merlin delivers a range of broadcast and communications services including distribution by satellite, consultancy and project management services, facilities management and a comprehensive hired transmitter.

EUROPEAN KLASSIK ROCK

EKR lost a number of presenters because of cutbacks. Night Tracks disappeared and so did Alton Andrews who presented this nighttime show. Alton moved to London Liberty Radio. Another jock who left is Bob Mower, he's currently on Thanet Local Radio where he joined former Caroline and Invicta deejay Johnny Lewis.

LOMIBC ONE OF 3 APPLICANTS FOR IOM HIGH-POWER LICENCE

The 39 year battle for a high power radio station on the Isle of Man reached historic milestone on Friday when Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company Ltd submitted its proposals to the Islands Communications Commission to operate the station with 500 kilowatts on 279, effectively an INR4 for the UK, but in fact serving a much wider area. Among LOMIBC's plans are a studio and office centre in Ramsey for the station's 50 staff and over a dozen positive benefits for the Isle of Man. The station's name is being kept confidential for the time being, in order to not dilute the impact of its launch. It will be aimed at adults aged 25 to 50 and employ several well known radio names and celebrities as presenters on the station, which should launch next year. A former Swinging Radio England deejay will be appointed programme controller, he's very experienced and for already 33 years in the radio industry. As he's still bound by contract to another station, his name will be kept secret for the time being. According to the Dutch magazine FRW, former Laser 558 female presenter Jessie Brandon will be joining the on air staff of the new station. The station's executives have a wealth of radio and music business under their belts and are led by John Ross-Barnard, whose radio career began at sea in the sixties and includes many years with the BBC, on air as well as in management. He was more recently responsible for setting up SMS, the satellite delivery network and has recently been supervising launch of new media initiatives in the former Yugoslavia for the European Union. The company's founder is Paul Rusing, who has been involved in licensing, development and engineering at many major and minor radio companies, but who started his career as a DJ on Radio Caroline in the early 1970s. "It has been a long battle," said Paul, who is the company's Chief Executive, who has spent much of the last four years commuting between several European cities, lobbying at Westminster, the ITU in Geneva and countries such as Tunisia and Belarus, all of whom had objected to the Isle of Man broadcasting. "There was tremendous opposition to the Isle of Man having its own international voice, but we were certain that the obstacles put up previously in the UK were no longer valid and that it would only be a matter of time before we wore them down," he said when the frequency finally came through earlier this year. "It cost a fortune in legal bills, but an important point of principle was at stake as well as the exciting prospect of the Island finally having its own powerful voice." LOMIBC was formed in 1994 to lobby the UK Government to drop its objections to such a station on the Island. As long ago as 1959, the Isle of Man Government has been asking for permission to licence such a station and there have been many high powered delegations to London over the years to get a stronger frequency for Manx Radio. London always refused, and have cited a variety of reasons. "The most ludicrous reason put forward was that such a station would 'steal' listeners from the IJR stations in the UK, an excuse trotted out again to halt Atlantic when that station launched," said Paul this week. In recent years the Radio Authority, which looks after commercial stations such as Virgin and Talkradio, seized one frequency which LOMIBC had proposed, 225 LW, although it has not brought it into use, despite there being

firm interest from over a dozen UK radio groups. The team also includes Rick Wakeman who is currently hosting a programme on BBC Radio 2 as well as several TV programmes. He is joined by Dave Cousins, leader of The Strawbs and who has since managed several stations and been involved in radio licensing development for CLT. Dave will be the station's Head of Music. They propose playing both contemporary and older music, but not restricted to Top 40 hits. Several of LOMIBC's team are still working in radio elsewhere and their identities will be kept confidential until notice periods are worked out.

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

LOMIBC believe their 279 Long wave signal will reach as far as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, but plan to boost reception still further by broadcasting on satellite and short wave to other parts of the world. "We plan to use a network of former BBC World Service transmitters which will send the station's signal into Australasia and North America, as well as some FM stations in other places such as the Cote d'Azur," Rusing explained. "It's very important that the station be seriously international and not just a station broadcasting to the UK, as the Broadcasting Act 1993 doesn't allow the Island to licence such a station." "I think it's very interesting to note that many of the big developments and changes in British radio have come about as a result of activity from outside the UK," said Rusing. "Lucky Luxembourg brought sweeping changes to the BBC over its half a century of serving music starved British audiences, then the offshore stations had their on effect, precipitating Radio One and commercial radio. In the 1980s, Laser gave radio another shake up, helping force out needtime restrictions and the 50-50 speech ratios from music stations, not to mention our junking wavelength in favour of frequencies!" LOMIBC, PO Box 279, Ramsey IM99 4HT, UK. Email: <LOMIBC@broadcast.net>.

(Thanks to Hans Knot-FreeWave & Paul Rusing)

The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company

The site is seen as a way of making information about the company and its plans for the licence available to both Isle of Man residents and potential listeners overseas. Content on the site includes a listing with biographical details of company executives, as well as some details of proposed coverage and programming plans. The proposed station is also running its first competition - via the web - offering the chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the island in return for filling in a simple survey form.

LOMIBC Chief Executive Paul Rusing comments "The licensing of a new longwave station from the Isle of Man is of interest to many people, both on the Island and elsewhere in Europe. We're delighted that by using the power of the internet, we can provide information about our part in this process to the widest possible audience."

"We will be updating the site frequently throughout the next few months so that the latest developments are always covered," Rusing added. You will find the LOMIBC website at <

<http://www.longwaveradio.com>>.

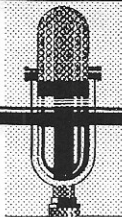
CLT APPLY FOR IOM LONGWAVE LICENCE (UK)

CLT-UFA have applied for the Isle of Man high-power longwave licence, proposing a station which will be called Indigo 279. The Indigo application is backed by a consortium including CLT (owners of Atlantic 252), CEA Broadcast Investments and Comunicorp. Indigo say that they will not only broadcast "an attractive broad based programming format of Classic Hits (music from the last four decades and today) coupled with news and lifestyle information", but will also benefit Isle of Man businesses and residents. The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company has also lodged an application, as have others - a full report will be given here in a couple of days, once the IOM authorities release the details.

The latest on Radiofax

Commission decides to give notice to government

On Sept. 9th the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg examined the question of admissibility of Trevor Brooks application for licensing his SW project Radiofax. Many years ago Radiofax was pulling out illegal broadcasts from Ireland. After Radiofax was forced to close down by the Irish authorities, Trevor Brook applied for an official SW licence in the UK but the authorities consistently refused to allow him to continue Radiofax on a legal basis. Trevor Brook decided not to give up and took the matter up with the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg. They now have decided that notice should be given to the Government of the U.K. and their observations invited in regard to a possible violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. In this case Trevor Brook asserts that by refusing to licence an independent short wave radio station the government unreasonably and persistently stifled media development, to the detriment of the public and in breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Trevor made his first application for a licence 12 years ago, August 1986. Since 1987, Trevor Brook has been running a company, Surrey Electronics Ltd, which specialises in research and design of products for the broadcast industry. Trevor Brook comments: "This is more encouraging news from Strasbourg. If any other people have documents on the subject I would be most pleased to hear from them and add to the evidence." Early December we received another update: Sept. 9th the court invited the UK government to submit its views about a possible violation of human rights. They responded to this request by asking the court for an extension to the usual time limit laid down for this process. This extension has subsequently been granted by the President of the Third Chamber. Trevor comments that "A request for extra time is



often read as an indication that the other side is having some difficulty justifying their position." You can contact Trevor by telephone 1483-275-997 or via Email <se@nordic.co.uk>. Snailmail address is: Surrey Electronics Ltd, The Forge, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 7BG in England.

MADE IN HOLLAND

SEPTEMBER

Early September the Dutch Government assigned 33 FM and 7 AM frequencies to 18 regional commercial radio stations. Eighty stations had applied for these frequencies. It is expected the lucky winners will start using their frequencies towards the end of the year. Stations like Rebecca Radio (Northern and eastern part of the country), Sun FM and City FM (Western part) and 8FM (Southern region) gained most frequencies. One of the stations getting an AM frequency is Quality Radio. This organisation wants to bring a station on the air called Radio Caroline. They will be broadcasting in the very Northern part of the country on a frequency of 1602 kHz. Power will be 1.5 kW. One of the initiators of the station is Bob Noakes, who has been working for the real Caroline back in the seventies. The station will be working with young talents. No big names from the past will be joining. A UK enterprise is backing the station financially. The name of this company hasn't been revealed yet. The assignment is temporarily until September 1st 2000. Then the entire frequency spectrum will be reshuffled. Radio 538 suffers from departure of deejays. Most popular jock Ruud de Wild and very experienced Michael Płarczyk are leaving the station. Ruud will join the new public broadcaster BNN, while Michael will get a job at a commercial media enterprise. More and more the station is losing the people who helped it to overcome its first, difficult years. Public broadcasters are using the internet to spread their programmes more and more. VPRO Radio shows us how pop radio can be made, while NCRV creates Buzz radio to promote its programmes made for national pop station Radio 3. Talking about public radio station Radio 3: 43% of the audience thinks radio 3 is a commercial radio station, while news station Radio 1 is recognized as a public broadcaster by 84%. Music means commercial, talking is equal to public broadcasting...

Talk Radio 1395 AM has been transferred into Business News 1395 AM. By half September. Reason for this move has been the very bad financial position of the station. Some fifteen people lost their jobs. Only some 200,000 people listened to TR every week. Advertisers considered this audience too small to buy commercials on the station. Emphasis on financial news has to attract another, broad audience.

OCTOBER

On October 14th, a stormy and rainy day, the MV Communicator, former vessel of the eighties station Laser 558/Laser Hot Hits, moved to a new anchorage. The radio ship was taken by two towing-vessels: the MV Meerval and MV Spitsbergen- from its current anchorage. Since 1985 the Communicator was anchored at the dyke just south of Enkhuizen. Some 80 people were invited to take part. During the journey, QFM was broadcasting live from the Communicator, the studio aboard was used for the first time since 1987! Since QFM's broadcasts were to be heard on AM taking 1224 AM over from Veronica, the ship was rented. Unico Glorie, Veronica's managing-director who was one of the invited people, admitted that Veronica had seriously considered the idea of starting a training centre for people willing to start working for a radio station. But in the end this plan had to be cancelled because it needed an enormous investment to fully prepare the ship for this job. Late in the afternoon the Communicator reached its new destination in the Almere Pampus harbour. Mooring the ship was a tough job which took quite some time. Nearly 4 years ago Veronica paid 10 million guilders, QFM, the new owner only paid a nominal amount. Unico Glorie emphasized that the transfer of the Communicator meant an end of the Veronica ship era. The new mooring coincides with a new ownership. For the last year it was rented by QFM from Veronica and it is now sold to QFM. Unico Glorie, director of Veronica, officially handed the ship over to QFM's director Peter Jansen. Quality Radio is broadcasting on 1224 AM using a state-of-the-art digital Harris DX50 transmitter. The tx is leased from the Dutch Nozema.

NOVEMBER

This month we start in Belgium. Rumours are circulating the Corsendonck brewery is intending to start a cable station. Firstly the name Supergold was mentioned, while later

Radio Mi Amigo would become the station's name. However, this name appeared to be registered. The new name has become Radio Magdalena, referring to the last ship the real Radio Mi Amigo used back in the Summer of 1979. Only for some weeks, until the vessel ran aground. Apart from the name, the new station and its initiators don't have any connection with the former offshore station. A station that certainly did have ties with the former Radio Mi Amigo has been Radio Meava. This landbased 'pirate', using high powered transmitters gained a lot of success in the early Eighties. The station covered most of the Belgian territory and even could be received in the Southern part of Holland. Key figure behind the scenes was Patrick Valain (Patrick Van Acoleyen), who has been one of the major people in the Mi Amigo management. The new Meava will be called Verena and will also be broadcasting via cable. There aren't many details available, but it seems some well-known personalities will join the station. The Dutch commercial stations are doing very well. Their common market share is 44,3%, compared with 33,3% for the public stations. All this despite the fact the commercial stations still have minor means (read: lesser transmitters and frequencies). However, gradually they are expanding their coverage. Radio 538, Radio 10 Gold and Veronica already got more or more powered transmitters. And now Radio Noordzee Nationaal is 'on the move'. They moved their 50 kW/102.5 FM transmitter to a more eastern part of the country, to enlarge the covered area, while the transmitter in Groningen has been uplited in power. Above all this there are plans to establish two additional transmitters in other parts of the country. Tuesday November 17th a public hearing has been held to pay attention to some 30 objections against the assignment of frequencies to commercial regional stations. Very soon after this meeting stations like HOT radio, Rebecca and 8FM started their transmissions on FM. In case you want to read and HEAR more about Dutch radio, then you should visit <<http://home.wsn.nl/~t-laiers>>. **NEW DUTCH COMMUNICATIONS LAW??**

Friday Oct. 2nd the editorial staff of MediaVisie, a new weekly Ezine spread via the Internet, brings an interesting story about the future for commercial offshore radio stations. Until a few years ago it was simply inconceivable believing the Dutch government would assign every possible frequency being available to commercial radio stations. Nonetheless this same government is energetically giving orders for technical research mapping every possible frequency not being used. Imagine our surprise knowing that a new Telecommunications law is being prepared perhaps coming into force before the end of this year. In the mean time different Dutch governmental services are strongly arguing about these plans. Fact is that some of them are seriously taking exception to the new law. The so-called Rijksoverheid voor de Radiocommunicatie- the body monitoring & controlling the airwaves- is not happy at all with parts of the proposals. It remains forbidden for Dutch citizens to give assistance to broadcasts from ships outside territorial waters. Dutch companies risk heavy penalties when advertising on such stations, the same applies to supplying radio vessels. But the new law legalizes the possession of transmitting equipment. That's a very significant change because in such case a Dutch port can be used for equipping radio ships. Imagine you have a legal cable or Internet station enabling you to sell commercial airtime. You make a contract with a foreign company, in a country not having any anti-offshore law. You agree that the foreign company will be investigating the possibilities of getting your signal into the Netherlands. Mind your: officially you haven't ordered to moor a ship on the high seas. Then the legal satellite, cable or Internet signal will be relayed from a ship in International waters. Advertisers can legally advertise on the satellite, cable or Internet but are audible via the ship as well. Of course the advertiser didn't give any orders to do that keeping out of range. Then the supplying of the ship: forbidden for Dutch citizens but not for foreigners. You can even switch to off outside the territorial waters and sail to the nearest port where the ship can be supplied with food, spare parts etc. As long as no Dutchmen are aboard, the Dutch authorities cannot undertake any legal action. So far so good. The Telecommunications law just described is only a proposal, the Dutch Lower House must take the final decision whether it will be accepted or not. The Rijksoverheid voor de Radiocommunicatie seizes every opportunity to tighten the bill. One of their proposals is that you only may possess transmitting equipment when having a certificate proving you are allowed to keep it in your house. In case the RDR wins this battle all will remain the same, nothing will change. We will await further developments and keep you in the picture.

Now from FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS three high quality Radio Caroline cassettes featuring the station's live output from Sunday Nov. 15th 1998 when the first Int. Caroline programming from the Ross Revenge went out on satellite. Listen to great pps from Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Nigel Harris and others. 270 minutes on three C-90s for DM 29.90/£ 9.95/ f 29.90.

THE FRS NEWSLETTER/ FRS-HOLLAND WISHES ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY X-MAS & A GREAT 1999. WE HOPE 1999 WILL BECOME YOUR BEST YEAR OF THIS DECADE.

